

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KABUL 06577 150738Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 SAA-01 SES-02 /102 W
-----095764 151215Z /53

R 150410Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9554
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6577

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, AF, PK
SUBJ: MIG-17 PILOT SUPPORTS OFFICIAL VERSION THAT HIS LANDING IN
PAKISTAN WAS INNOCENT AFFAIR

REF: KABUL 6503

1. RADIO AFGHANISTAN BROADCAST AN INTERVIEW THE EVENING OF
AUGUST 12 WITH MAJOR MOHAMMAD HAKIM, THE PILOT OF THE AFGHAN
MIG-17 WHICH MADE AN UNSCHEDULED LANDING IN KOHAT, PAKISTAN, ON
AUGUST 7. HAKIM SUPPORTED THE PAK AND AFGHAN OFFICIAL VERSIONS OF
THIS INCIDENT BY BLAMING BAD WEATHER, TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND A
SHORTAGE OF FUEL FOR HIS TOUCHDOWN IN PAKISTAN. HE ADDED THAT THE
PLANE WAS NOT DAMAGED DURING THE AFFAIR AND HE PRAISED THE PAK
AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR FRIENDLY BEHAVIOR TOWARD HIM. HE CLAIMED HE
FLEW THE PLANE BACK TO AFGHANISTAN HIMSELF (REFTEL).

2. COMMENT: A LEVEL-HEADED APPROACH BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS APPARENTLY
PREVENTED THIS INCIDENT FROM DEVELOPING INTO SOMETHING MORE
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SERIOUS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING BILATERAL TENSIONS
OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS. A PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT HERE, HOWEVER,
HAS TOLD US THAT THERE WERE, IN FACT, SOME TENSE MOMENTS AT ONE
POINT WHEN ONE OF HAKIM'S BUDDIES CAME LOOKING FOR HIM AROUND KOHAT.
THIS SECOND MIG-17 REPORTEDLY BUZZED THE FIELD A COUPLD OF TIMES
BEFORE COMMUNICATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED, BUT THE PAK MILITARY
AUTHORITIES TOOK NO ACTION AGAINST HIM AND CONVINCED THIS SECOND

INTRUDER INTO PAKISTAN AIR SPACE TO RETURN TO AFGHANISTAN BEFORE SOMETHING UNFORTUNATE HAPPENED.

3. DURING AN AUGUST 14 CALL BY AMBASSADOR DUBS ON FOREIGN MINISTER HAFIZULLAH AMIN, AMIN MENTIONED THAT THE INTERVIEW WITH HAKIM WOULD BE CARRIED ON AFGHAN TELEVISION, AND AMIN ADDED HIS OWN EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE THAT COOL HEADS ON BOTH SIDES AVOIDED A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SITUATION FROM DEVELOPING.

4. NEVERTHELESS, THE INCIDENT HAS SOME LOOSE THREADS, SUCH AS WHY THE WEATHER WAS BAD FOR ONE AIRCRAFT AND NOT ANOTHER, OR WHY ONLY ONE PLANE RAN SHORT OF FUEL.
DUBS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, AIRCRAFT PILOTS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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